

3/19/02

## **PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM SURFACE COATING OF METAL FURNITURE**

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a proposed rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from the processes used to apply surface coatings to metal furniture. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
- ! Metal furniture surface coating is the process of applying a coating (usually protective or decorative) to a piece of metal furniture or a metal furniture component. Metal furniture includes items such as household and office furniture; restaurant, beauty, and barber shop furniture; institutional furniture such as for hospitals and public buildings; office and store fixtures, shelving, lockers, and lamps and lighting fixtures.
- ! EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or “source” categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For categories of “major” sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA’s published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes metal furniture surface coating operations.
- ! Air toxic emissions from metal furniture surface coating facilities occur from the coating application process, which includes curing and/or drying of the coating, and from the evaporation of organic cleaning materials used to prepare the surfaces before coating is applied and to clean equipment and tools.
- ! Metal furniture surface coating operations emit a number of toxic air pollutants including xylene, toluene, glycol ethers, 2-butoxy ethanol, ethylbenzene, and methyl ethyl ketone. Health effects associated with these pollutants include eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation; nausea, vomiting,

headache, and dizziness; and liver and kidney damage.

**BENEFITS AND COST**

- ! Today's action would reduce total emissions of air toxics by nearly 16,000 tons in the fifth year after promulgation of the final rule. This represents a reduction of approximately 70 percent from the estimated 1997/98 baseline.
- ! EPA estimates that the total nationwide annualized cost in the fifth year after the final rule is promulgated would be approximately \$15.4 million.
- ! EPA assessed the impact of the proposed rule on small business entities and determined that there will not be a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities.

**WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES**

- ! The proposed rule would require existing affected metal furniture surface coating facilities to limit air toxic emissions to 0.12 kg/liter coating solids used (1.0 lb/gal). New sources would need to limit emissions to 0.094 kg/liter coating solids used (0.78 lb/gal).
- ! For both new and existing sources, the emission limits represent levels that can be met by pollution prevention techniques.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! To download the standards from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- ! The notice and background information document are also available through the EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-97-40) by calling (202) 260-7548 or fax (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).
- ! Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-97-40, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Dr. Mohamed Serageldin, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group (C539-03), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address: [serageldin.mohamed@epa.gov](mailto:serageldin.mohamed@epa.gov).
- ! If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other

comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to

Dr. Mohamed Serageldin, c/o Document Control Officer (C404-02), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

- ! For general information about the proposed standards, contact Dr. Mohamed Serageldin of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coating and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-2379, or by electronic mail at: [serageldin.mohamed@epa.gov](mailto:serageldin.mohamed@epa.gov). Or visit the metal furniture (surface coating) website at [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/mfurn/met\\_furn.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/mfurn/met_furn.html).
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.